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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 000867

NOFORN  
SIPDIS  
STATE FOR EAP/MLS LAURA SCHEIBE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PASS TO AMCONSUL QUEBEC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/12/03  
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SUBJECT: Canada working "behind the scenes" on democratic reform in  
Burma

REF: STATE 121789

CLASSIFIED BY: Scott Bellard, Minister Counselor for Political  
Affairs, State, POL; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

¶1. (C/NF) Canada is working "behind the scenes" on new ideas for  
advancing democratic reform in Burma and welcomes U.S. high level  
engagement with the Burmese government (reftel), according to Erin  
Koenig, deskoff for Burma, Thailand, and Regional Human Rights in  
the Southeast Asia and Oceania Relations Division of the Department  
of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Koenig  
commented that USG efforts are "consistent" with Canada's goals for  
"national reconciliation and dialogue between the national  
opposition and the junta. " She added that DFAIT would consider a  
public statement from Canada echoing a call for political reform.

¶2. (C/NF) Koenig insisted that Burma was "one of the most  
important items on the agenda" internally at DFAIT and that "like  
the EU," Canada is "looking within at our own policy to build new  
approaches to Burma for reform with the 2010 elections." As part  
of DFAIT's internal review, Koenig requested any additional  
information on A/S Campbell's trip to Burma. Koenig confirmed to  
poloff that Canada had also held "numerous" bilateral meetings on  
the margins of the recent APEC Leaders' Summit, at which political  
reform in Burma was "high on the agenda" and "emphasized in the  
talking points" with ASEAN partners.

¶3. (U) Koenig and Southeast Asia and Oceania Relations Division  
Director Nadia Burger plan to travel to Washington in December to  
meet with State Department interlocutors on U.S. Burma policy, but  
have not yet set their exact travel dates.  
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